

The Brethren Evangelist,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

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IN OHIO AGAIN.

We must again beg the indulgence of our patrons. Homer was growing worse, and we could entertain no hope of his recovery without radical and speedy help. We therefore came to Chicago last Wednesday night, and the next day took him to The Women and Children's Hospital for operation. But the surgeon informed us that it would only worry the patient, and shorten his days, and refused to operate at all. He was so absolutely positive that his diagnosis was correct that he would not even make an exploratory incision. So far then as help from human hands is concerned we have no hope whatever.

Mail sent to us at Ashland will be forwarded and answered from here. We are now located at 6036 Edgerton Ave., Chicago, but we do not know how long we shall remain here. For the present it will be best to send all mail to Ashland. We especially regret being away from the office at this particular time owing to the revival meetings being held in the Chapel and to an anticipated visit from Dr. Garst.

March 24th.

APPRENTICESHIP.

(The following sermon, as nearly as we can reproduce it at this time, was delivered in the College chapel March 6th.)

"Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

There was a time when many served apprenticeship faithfully. There are countries where it is not unfashionable to do so even now, but not so in our proud and boastful America. Nevertheless, it is the foundation of every successful life.

The difficulty with many in business and profession consists more in their lack of preparation before entering upon the work

they have chosen for a life vocation than all the hindering causes or adverse circumstances of Government or Nature. The stepping stones to success are doing the small things better than any one else has, does, or could do them. Faithfulness in the details of life make the successful aggregate. There are few persons who are satisfied to occupy their time and strength with the fundamentals of anything.

Many want to be master mechanics almost before they can cut straight across a board. They want to be teachers before they have acquired the ability to be even good students. How carefully this was guarded in the initiation of the Christian church. When Christ entered upon his ministry, he called to him, twelve men who were occupied with the common affairs of this life. He kept these men with him through all his labor. They were all witnesses of nearly every miracle he performed, and every controversy he had with his opponents. Every one knows that the progress of the beginner depends largely upon the manner in which truth is presented. We must therefore believe that those who received instructions directly from Christ had the most superior teaching that it has ever been the privilege of any man to enjoy. They are taught not simply theory, they are not given simply books, they are taken right into the quarries of thought where the explosives of the divine intuitions were used. They see the eyes of the blind opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped, the lepers cleansed, the lame made to walk, the sick raised from their beds, and the dead from their biers and even from the grave. They had laid their heads upon the throbbing heart of the Son of God, and listened to truth as it came from the Living Rock. They had walked in the light of God eternally incarnated, during all the three eventful years of Jesus' ministry on earth.

But, notwithstanding this preparation, this schooling, this apprenticeship, Jesus did not consider them as qualified to enter at once upon the work of propagating the principles and doctrines which he came to the world to establish but said to them, "Tarry at Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Had this direction been disregarded, notwithstanding the wonderful life and the miracle of miracles, Jesus' resurrection and ascension, still the work could not have prospered in their hands.

How can we be opposed to apprenticeship when we see how careful the Lord was to thoroughly train his first disciples before entrusting them as his agents. Returning again to the question of faithfulness in small things, there is no proof of any one's fitness for the aggregate who has not the ability to

master the details. Promotion in business offices, in governmental service, when honorably administered is invariable based upon the principles embodied in our text—*faithfulness over a few things*.

When churches are booming with prosperity, there is no lack of helpers, of course, but when the Lord has been taken by his enemies and the cause seems lost then friends are reduced to the few. But it is only under such circumstances that we can tell who are friends. It is said that "He who is a friend in need, is a friend indeed." Give us a church composed of members who will be just as active and faithful in work when circumstances seem adverse, when there appears no ray of hope or success, and we will show you a church which God will miraculously bless in his own good time and way.

Revivals are by some desecrated because it is said, the results are not abiding, that the religion all goes with the revivalist. Too often it seems as if this unkind charge is true; but where lies the responsibility? With the evangelist or revivalist? or with the church in whose bounds the meetings are held? Of course, the evangelist comes in for his share of responsibility. We must not underrate his influence. At no time is the adage "like priest, like people," more applicable than in revival work when people's minds and hearts are warm with enthusiasm, they are more susceptible to impressions that will last with life than perhaps at any other time.

However, the great responsibility is with the church. If she properly performs her duty, and like a mother with a new born babe, gives the necessary care and attention to those who have been born into the family of God, not by the will of man nor of blood nor flesh but of God, it is just as natural that those who have been born of God by revival services should become healthy spiritual children as that a physical child should grow in strength and health—into manhood or womanhood.

There is an impression in the minds of many people that they must have a revivalist to do revival work. We do not by any means, underestimate the helpfulness of inspiring, incisive, logical, gospel preaching, but we do insist that the church that cannot be faithful in a few things is not fit to have charge of many; and it is absurd for us to expect God to place much in our hands if we have shown no ability or faithfulness to take care of the *little* already possessed.

When attendance is large then you cannot keep some members away from church services, but when it is small, you cannot get them there at all. This shows that they go, not to worship God, not to be taught God's